

28 APR 1969

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Chief, Psychological and Paramilitary Staff  
Deputy Chief, Psychological and Paramilitary Staff

**SUBJECT:** Task Forces

1. I would like to express my concern over what appears to me to be a trend, and perhaps the establishment of a precedent, as illustrated by the Iraqi Task Force.

2. The most compelling reason for the establishment of the Task Force is that once again an emergency situation has arisen, and we are caught without adequate preparation of capabilities and assets in the area. The few staybehind projects have had very low priority, they have not been aggressively pursued and they have not been oriented toward their utilization in cold war contingencies.

3. The Agency has within its charter the responsibility for the development of such assets, with it being fully understood that the commitment of the assets in any given situation must be in consonance with national policy. It is my personal observation that the Division, per se, has adopted the position that the development of capabilities for the type of action required is now the responsibility of the Task Force. The Task Force on the other hand cannot do anything until a specific policy decision on Iraq authorizes them to move ahead.

4. Realistically, I consider the chances very slim that any policy will be forthcoming permitting an operation of the scale envisaged in the briefing given by the Task Force, and the odds are that it will never proceed beyond the planning stage. The Preliminary Estimate, Operational Programs and RMD's do not in

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any way indicate a willingness on the part of the Division to assume real responsibility for the development of capabilities for Iraq or any other contingency that might arise.

5. When the next contingency does arise--Iran, Jordan-- who knows where-- it will be the same story, -nothing ready, -throw together a Task Force, -too little and too late.

PP/PMD: [redacted] dlm (22 April 1959) [redacted] Paramilitary Division, [redacted]

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